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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-ninth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2340th meeting**
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 5 October 2018, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Winter

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Closure of the session

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.
** No summary records were issued for the 2333rd to 2339th meetings.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 5.10 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **The Chair** said that, as at 5 October, there were 196 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As at the same date, following the accession of South Sudan, 168 States parties had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Again following the accession of South Sudan, ratifications or accessions to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography now stood at 175. After the recent ratification by Ecuador and accession by San Marino, 41 States parties had now ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

2. During the session, the Committee had considered reports from six States parties, including five under the Convention (Benin, El Salvador, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mauritania and Niger). It had also considered the initial reports of Niger and Saudi Arabia under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the initial report of Saudi Arabia under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. She took it that the Committee wished to adopt the concluding observations that had been drawn up for those six States parties.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. The Committee had reviewed the information it had received under the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure. It had considered individual communication No. 11/2017, *N.B.F. v. Spain*, and individual communication No. 12/2017, *C.E. v. Belgium*, under article 5, but had decided not to designate members to conduct an inquiry under article 13 in respect of communication No. 2015/1. The Committee had continued its work on the simplified reporting procedure and on the revision of general comment No. 10 (2007) on children's rights in juvenile justice (CRC/C/GC/10). On 28 September 2018, it had held a day of general discussion on protecting and empowering children as human rights defenders. Many children had taken part in the discussions, sharing their views and concerns with the Committee and invited experts.

5. The Committee's eightieth session would take place from 14 January to 1 February 2019. The programme of work would be posted on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the coming weeks.

6. **Mr. Gastaud** (Rapporteur) said that Committee members had taken part in a range of activities since the closure of the seventy-eighth session. The Chair had participated in a number of conferences, panels and round-table discussions and had given keynote addresses explaining and promoting the Committee's work at events in Canada, the Czech Republic, India, Italy and Switzerland. Her interventions had covered topics including child mental health, the prevention of child abuse and neglect, migrant detention and access to justice for girls.

7. Ms. Aho Assouma had chaired meetings of the governing bodies of the National Centre for Orthopaedic Appliances and of Lomé Regional Hospital Centre in Togo, as well as a meeting with the expert committee responsible for implementing the World Food Programme's Zero Hunger programme in Togo. She had also attended an event on blood security organized by the National Blood Transfusion Centre and had participated in the foundation stone laying ceremony of the future Togolese Centre for Children in Conflict with the Law, financed jointly by the European Union and the United Nations Children's Fund.

8. Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi had attended a side event on youth and human rights education organized by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco during the current session. In June, Mr. Cardona Llorens had attended two events, namely a side event on young persons' rights in Geneva and a meeting of European ombudspersons on the subject of unaccompanied migrant children in Malaga. He had then travelled to Colombia to follow up on the Committee's concluding observations to that State party's last periodic reports

and to take part in a conference to explore the possibility of drafting a comprehensive law prohibiting violence against children.

9. Ms. Khazova had given a presentation on family violence in the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights at a seminar on violence in family and school settings held in Monaco in June 2018. In the same month, Mr. Kotrane had given a presentation on the Committee's guidelines for the rehabilitation of girls in street situations at a side event in Geneva. In August, he had helped to design the parameters for a survey on migrant children in Tunisia to be carried out by International Social Service — Switzerland, while, in September, he had given a talk on integration through access to the labour market at the fourth summer school on migration organized jointly by the University of Carthage, Tunisia, and the International Organization for Migration.

10. Mr. Lumina had given keynote addresses at two events in Geneva, in May and June 2018, on the themes of extraterritoriality as a tool in international human rights law, and corruption and children's rights, respectively. Later in June, in Kenya, he had facilitated a pilot workshop on reporting under human rights treaties in Africa for staff of national human rights institutions. In July, in South Africa, he had participated in consultations on illicit financial flows and the impact of extractive industries on the environment and human rights organized by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Mr. Nelson, meanwhile, had helped the Samoan authorities to finalize the outcome report of a national public inquiry on family violence in Samoa and had moderated a week-long programme of training on the Convention and its Optional Protocols for staff of the Office of the Ombudsman in Samoa.

11. Ms. Otani had attended a meeting of experts on economic, social and cultural rights and the Sustainable Development Goals in Geneva in June, before travelling to the Philippines to give presentations on children's rights in international migration and children as human rights defenders at a meeting organized by Child Rights Coalition Asia. She had then travelled to Japan to give keynote addresses on the challenges to alternative care institutions for children and the challenges to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies in Asia, respectively, at two separate events in Tokyo. She had also attended the celebrations organized in Kumamoto to mark the twenty-sixth Day of the African Child. In August, she had spoken on children's rights and the environment at regional consultations on feminist environmental justice in Bangkok, then, back in Toyko, she had given a seminar on the sexual exploitation of children at the National Police Academy. In September, she had been the keynote speaker at a conference on safeguarding children's best interests in Hong Kong.

12. Mr. Perdernera Reyna had been involved in a number of activities in Brazil in June, July and August 2018. He had attended a meeting exploring the rights of children and adolescents in street situations; had visited four detention centres for girls; had met with the authorities in charge of the socio-educational system; had taken part in training on the prevention of torture in prisons; had participated in the launch event for a report on the children's rights situation in Latin America; and had attended a seminar on the national system for guaranteeing children's rights. He had also visited Argentina, where he had attended an event to mark publication of a report on justice and human rights in juvenile prison systems in Latin America and had given a presentation at a training course for public officials involved in submitting reports to the treaty bodies and following up on recommendations.

13. In September, Ms. Sandberg had given a presentation expounding a child rights approach to child protection at the Nordic Congress on Child Welfare in Reykjavik and had spoken on the legal interpretation of the best interests of the child in return proceedings at a side event on children in international migration in Geneva. At another event in Geneva in October, she had given a talk setting out the Committee's position on the detention of undocumented migrant children. Ms. Skelton, meanwhile, had chaired a discussion about children deprived of their liberty in South Africa, had taken part in a meetings of experts in juvenile justice in the Netherlands, and had participated in a meeting of the working group tasked with formulating human rights guidelines for private education in London.

14. In June, Ms. Todorova had moderated a high-level panel discussion at the European Union forum on family and community-based care for children in Brussels, had given a presentation on the intersectional approach to the rights of children with disabilities at the National University of Ireland, and had chaired a round-table discussion at a conference on surrogacy at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. In July, she had delivered a presentation about children's rights and child protection in the context of migration as part of a training programme on protecting and empowering children held in Sofia, Bulgaria. Mr. Gastaud himself had given a presentation highlighting the importance of data for the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child during a side event held in Geneva in June entitled "Make all children count". He had also attended the seminar on violence against children in family and school settings held in Monaco.

15. The Committee had met with a diverse range of individuals, organizations and bodies during the session. The day of general discussion had brought together children from various countries, as well experts in the field, and the children's eloquent testimonies had reflected their passionate commitment to human rights. At a joint meeting with members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee had considered ways in which cooperation between the two bodies might be enhanced and the impact of their work thus increased, notably through the creation of a joint working group.

16. In other meetings, Committee members had met with representatives of the Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education, the World Organization for Early Childhood Education and the Education and Cooperation Foundation, who had given a presentation on the right to early childhood education in Latin America; with representatives of the Child Rights International Network, who had presented the findings of their recent research into children's rights; with representatives of the Consortium for Street Children, who provided an update on their work to promote general comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations (CRC/C/GC/21); with representatives of the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership, who had shared their research on the relationship between children's right to participate and child protection programmes and policies; and with representatives of the International Society for Social Paediatrics and Child Health, who had offered suggestions for possible ways of working together to promote children's right to health. The Committee had also met with Professor Sonia Livingstone, Ms. Gerison Lansdown and Baroness Beeban Kidron, who had shared thoughts and suggestions for a general comment on children's digital rights.

17. The working group tasked with the revision of general comment No. 10, which was led by Ms. Skelton, had submitted a first draft for consideration by the Committee in plenary. The working group responsible for reviewing the Committee's rules of procedure, which was co-chaired by Mr. Lumina and Mr. Madi, had finalized its review and had submitted the revised rules for discussion and adoption in plenary. The working group tasked with developing guidelines for the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, chaired by Ms. Todorova, had met twice, firstly to discuss the content of the draft guidelines and the proposed timescale for their adoption with representatives of ECPAT International, and secondly to agree on a timetable. The working group on the simplified reporting procedure, coordinated by Ms. Sandberg, had discussed the procedure's implementation during the pre-sessional working group meeting in June 2018 and had made preparations for its use at the next pre-sessional meeting. The working group on the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, chaired by Mr. Nelson, had reviewed a number of cases under the individual communications and inquiries procedures.

18. In the week ahead, the working group for the participation of children, led by Ms. Sandberg, would get together with the working group responsible for the day of general discussion to follow up on the event and consider the success of the children's contribution. The working group on the treaty body strengthening system, coordinated by Ms. Otani and Mr. Cardona Llorens, had discussed issues related to the 2020 review of the treaty bodies. The working group tasked with drafting a general comment on the digital environment, which had been established during the session, would hold its first meeting in the coming week.

19. **The Chair** said that she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the report of its seventy-ninth session.

20. *It was so decided.*

21. **The Chair** declared closed the seventy-ninth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.